

June 29, 2023

Supervisor Dorsey  
Supervisor Walton  
Supervisor Safai  
Rules Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Enthusiastic Recommendation for Lydia So to Serve on Board of Directors of the SFMTA

Dear Supervisors Dorsey, Safai and Walton

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Lydia So to serve as a Board of Directors of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). I have had the privilege of knowing Lydia for several years in our joint capacities as members of the San Francisco Arts Commission and the Mayor's Monuments and Memorials Task Force. We also jointly serve on the Arts and Culture of Grace Cathedral. I have witnessed her exceptional dedication to public service and her unwavering commitment to the betterment of San Francisco and its communities.

Lydia's extensive experience in public service, combined with her exceptional qualifications, make her an ideal candidate for the SFMTA Board. Her previous service on the Arts Commission is a testament to her visionary leadership and her ability to contribute to city planning, improve the design quality of City-owned properties, and effectively regulate the 1%-for-art program. Lydia's invaluable contributions during her tenure on the Arts Commission have demonstrated her ability to think strategically and implement policies that enhance the cultural equity of our city.

Furthermore, Lydia's role as a liaison to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development exemplifies her commitment to promoting affordable housing for all residents of San Francisco. She understands the importance of accessible housing options and has actively supported initiatives that prioritize inclusivity and equitable development. Her dedication to improving the living conditions of families and business owners in the Bay Area through her own architecture firm further underscores her passion for creating vibrant and culturally equitable communities.

Lydia's involvement in significant projects, such as the Better Market Street improvement plan, highlights her dedication to sustainable urban growth and her focus on Vision Zero, aimed at eliminating traffic-related fatalities in our city. Her expertise in the technical aspects of architecture and engineering, as evidenced by her trailblazing achievement as the first AAPI woman architect promoted to Technical Associate at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, makes her uniquely qualified to contribute to the SFMTA Board's endeavors.

Moreover, Lydia's recent roles as a Historic Preservation Commissioner and Portsmouth Square Parking Corporation Board Member demonstrate her commitment to preserving San Francisco's rich heritage and enhancing its cultural fabric. Her global experience in designing some of the world's most iconic structures, including the world's first all-glass spiral staircase, reflects her expertise in land use, urban environments, and transit-oriented developments. Lydia's comprehensive skill set and understanding of

the critical role transit plays in maintaining vibrant communities would be invaluable assets to the SFMTA Board.

As a longtime resident of the Mission neighborhood, Lydia intimately understands the challenges and opportunities that our diverse communities face. It is high time that the SFMTA Board has AAPI representation, and Lydia's exceptional qualifications, coupled with her proven track record in city governance, make her the perfect candidate to bridge gaps and accomplish tangible results.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Lydia So's candidacy for the Board of Directors of the SFMTA. Her expertise, dedication to public service, and her ability to build bridges within our diverse communities make her the ideal candidate for this position. I urge you to give Lydia's application your utmost consideration and to cast your vote in support of her appointment.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss Lydia's candidacy in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me. As a resident of our great City and with two grandchildren and their parents who also live here, I have complete confidence in Lydia's ability to contribute significantly to the SFMTA Board and to advance the transportation policies and services in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Collins  
24 sixth Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
collinccharlesm@me.com  
(415) 720-5633

cc: Clerk of the Rules Committee, Victor Young  
President of the Board of Supervisor, Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Joel Engardio  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Rafael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Clerk of the Board, Angela Calvillo  
Deputy Clerk of the Board, Alisa Somera

**From:** [collinscharlesm@me.com](mailto:collinscharlesm@me.com)  
**To:** [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Engardio, Joel \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, J \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Lydia So as SFMTA Board of Directors  
**Date:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 6:08:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [June 29 Lydia So Recommendation.docx](#)

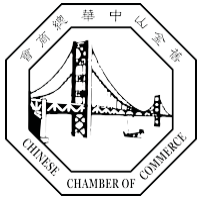
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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please see the attached letter in support of Lydia So as Board Member, SFMTA.

Thank you,

Charles M. Collins  
24 Sixth Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
(415) 720-5633  
[collinscharlesm@me.com](mailto:collinscharlesm@me.com)



# CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

730 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

(415) 982-3000

Fax: (415) 982-4720

Donald Luu  
730 Sacramento Street,  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
dluu09@gmail.com  
415.613.3483  
July 3, 2023

Supervisor Dorsey  
Supervisor Walton  
Supervisor Safai  
Rules Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Strong Recommendation for Lydia So to Serve as a Board of Directors of the SFMTA

Dear Matt, Shamann and Ahsha,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Lydia So to serve as a Board of Directors of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). I have had the privilege of knowing Lydia for several years. The Chinese community have witnessed her exceptional dedication to public service and her unwavering commitment to the betterment of San Francisco and its communities.

Lydia's extensive experience in public service, combined with her exceptional qualifications, make her an ideal candidate for the SFMTA Board. Her previous service on the Arts Commission is a testament to her visionary leadership and her ability to contribute to city planning, improve the design quality of City-owned properties, and effectively regulate the 1%-for-art program. Lydia's invaluable contributions during her tenure on the Arts Commission have demonstrated her ability to think strategically and implement policies that enhance the cultural equity of our city.

Furthermore, Lydia's role as a liaison to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development exemplifies her commitment to promoting affordable housing for all residents of San Francisco. She understands the importance of accessible housing options and has actively supported initiatives that prioritize inclusivity and equitable development. Her dedication to improving the living conditions of families and business owners in the Bay Area through her own architecture firm further underscores her passion for creating vibrant and culturally equitable communities.

Lydia's involvement in significant projects, such as the Better Market Street improvement plan, highlights her dedication to sustainable urban growth and her focus on Vision Zero, aimed at eliminating traffic-related fatalities in our city. Her expertise in the technical aspects of architecture and engineering, as evidenced by her trailblazing achievement as the first AAPI woman architect promoted to Technical Associate at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, makes her uniquely qualified to contribute to the SFMTA Board's endeavors.

Moreover, Lydia's recent roles as a Historic Preservation Commissioner and Portsmouth Square Parking Corporation Board Member demonstrate her commitment to preserving San Francisco's rich heritage and enhancing its cultural fabric. Her global experience in designing some of the world's most iconic structures, including the world's first all-glass spiral staircase, reflects her expertise in land use, urban environments, and transit-oriented developments. Lydia's comprehensive skill set and understanding of

Supervisor Dorsey  
Supervisor Walton  
Supervisor Safai  
Rules Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

July 3, 2023  
Page 2 of 2

the critical role transit plays in maintaining vibrant communities would be invaluable assets to the SFMTA Board.

As a longtime resident of the Mission neighborhood, Lydia intimately understands the challenges and opportunities that our diverse communities face. It is high time that the SFMTA Board has AAPI representation, and Lydia's exceptional qualifications, coupled with her proven track record in city governance, make her the perfect candidate to bridge gaps and accomplish tangible results.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Lydia So's candidacy for the Board of Directors of the SFMTA. Her expertise, dedication to public service, and her ability to build bridges within our diverse communities make her the ideal candidate for this position. I urge you to give Lydia's application your utmost consideration and to cast your vote in support of her appointment.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss Lydia's candidacy in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me. I have complete confidence in Lydia's ability to contribute significantly to the SFMTA Board and to advance the transportation policies and services in San Francisco.

Sincerely,



Donald Luu,  
President, Supervisory Board of San Francisco Chinese Chamber of Commerce

cc: Clerk of the Rules Committee, Victor Young  
President of the Board of Supervisor, Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Joel Engardio  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Rafael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Clerk of the Board, Angela Calvillo  
Deputy Clerk of the Board, Alisa Somera

Meaghan M. Mitchell  
269 Bridgeview Dr.  
San Francisco, CA 94124  
[MeaghanMitchell@gmail.com](mailto:MeaghanMitchell@gmail.com)  
415-218-3434

Supervisor Dorsey  
Supervisor Walton  
Supervisor Safai  
Rules Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Pl, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Recommendation for Lydia So to Serve as a Board of Directors of the SFMTA

Dear Supervisors Dorsey, Walton, and Safai,

I am writing to express my support for Lydia So to serve on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). As a passionate Bayview resident dedicated to improving San Francisco, I have witnessed Lydia's exceptional commitment to public service.

Lydia's extensive experience and qualifications make her an ideal candidate for the SFMTA Board. Her leadership on the Arts Commission improved city planning, design quality, and the 1%-for-art program. She thinks strategically and implements policies that enhance our city's cultural equity.

Lydia's role as a liaison to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development demonstrates her dedication to affordable housing for all residents. Through her architecture firm, she improves living conditions and promotes vibrant, inclusive communities.

Her involvement in projects like the Better Market Street plan demonstrates her commitment to sustainable urban growth and Vision Zero. As the first AAPI woman architect promoted to Technical Associate at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, her expertise is invaluable to the SFMTA Board.

Furthermore, Lydia's experience as a Historic Preservation Commissioner and Portsmouth Square Parking Corporation Board Member showcases her dedication to preserving heritage and enhancing our cultural fabric. Her global experience in designing iconic structures reflects her expertise in land use, urban environments, and transit-oriented developments.

Lydia understands the challenges and opportunities in our diverse communities as a longtime resident of the Mission neighborhood. Her qualifications and proven track record in city governance make her the ideal candidate to bridge gaps and achieve tangible results.

I wholeheartedly endorse Lydia So for the SFMTA Board of Directors. Her expertise, dedication to public service, and ability to build bridges within our communities make her the perfect candidate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Meaghan M. Mitchell

Board President,, San Francisco African American Art & Cultural District  
Board member, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

Edward Siu  
658 Jackson Street  
San Francisco CA. 94133  
[edwardsiu@cmuasf.org](mailto:edwardsiu@cmuasf.org)  
Tel: (415) 706-6978  
Jun 27, 2023

Supervisor Dorsey  
Supervisor Walton  
Supervisor Safai  
Rules Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Recommendation for Lydia So as Board of Directors of the SFMTA

Dear Supervisor Dorsey, Supervisor Walton and Supervisor Safai,

I am writing to express my strong support and recommendation for Lydia So to serve as a Board of Directors of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). As an esteemed member of the Chinatown Merchants United Association and an advocate for the betterment of San Francisco, I believe that Lydia's extensive experience in public service, her unwavering dedication to the community, and her exceptional qualifications make her an outstanding candidate for this crucial position.

Lydia has a proven track record of advocating for cultural equity and sustainable urban growth in San Francisco. Her previous service on the Arts Commission is a testament to her ability to provide visionary leadership in city planning, enhance the design quality of City-owned properties, and effectively regulate the 1%-for-art program. Her commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive city shines through her work and accomplishments during her tenure.

In her role as a liaison to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, Lydia has been a staunch supporter of affordable housing production for all San Franciscans. She understands the pressing need for accessible housing options and has consistently championed initiatives that promote equitable development and address the housing challenges faced by our residents.

Lydia's involvement in the Better Market Street improvement plan demonstrates her dedication to enhancing the city's main thoroughfare and improving the safety and accessibility of our transportation system. Her focus on Vision Zero, aiming to eliminate traffic-related deaths in San Francisco, is commendable and aligns perfectly with the SFMTA's mission to prioritize the safety of all road users.



Furthermore, Lydia's accomplishments as a Historic Preservation Commissioner and Portsmouth Square Parking Corporation Board Member highlight her commitment to preserving the city's heritage and enhancing its cultural richness. Her diverse experiences and expertise in architecture and engineering, including her trailblazing role as the first AAPI woman architect promoted to Technical Associate at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, make her a highly qualified candidate to contribute to the development of inclusive and respectful transportation policies.

Lydia's practice as an architect, her work in regional urban growth, transit-oriented developments, and sustainability, as well as her global experience in designing world-renowned structures, showcase her unique skill set and deep understanding of the critical role that transit plays in maintaining the vitality of unique environments. Her perspective on places, land use, and the built environment will be invaluable in shaping the SFMTA's policies and initiatives.

As a longtime resident of San Francisco's Mission neighborhood and a Chinese American, Lydia is deeply connected to our community and understands the diverse needs of our residents. Having an AAPI representation on the SFMTA Board is long overdue, and Lydia's exceptional qualifications, combined with her city governance experience, make her the ideal candidate to build bridges and ensure that the voices of all communities are heard.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Lydia So's appointment to the Board of Directors of the SFMTA. Her extensive experience, proven track record, and dedication to public service make her an exceptional candidate who will bring valuable insights and positive change to San Francisco's transportation policies and services. I strongly urge you to vote in favor of her appointment and provide her with the opportunity to serve our city.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I am available for any further discussion or clarification. Please consider Lydia So's candidacy with the utmost seriousness and support her appointment to the SFMTA Board for the betterment of our city and its residents.

Sincerely,



Edward Siu

Chairman – Chinatown Merchants United Association of San Francisco

cc: Clerk of the Rules Committee, Victor Young  
President of the Board of Supervisor, Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Joel Engardio  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Rafael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Clerk of the Board, Angela Calvillo  
Deputy Clerk of the Board, Alisa Somera

Edward Siu  
658 Jackson Street  
San Francisco CA. 94133  
Edsiu88@yahoo.com  
Tel: (415) 706-6978  
Jun 28, 2023

Supervisor Dorsey  
Supervisor Walton  
Supervisor Safai  
Rules Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Strong Recommendation for Lydia So to Serve as a Board of Directors of the SFMTA

Dear Matt, Shamann and Asha,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Lydia So to serve as a Board of Directors of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). I have had the privilege of knowing Lydia for several years [Edward Siu – Classics Tour Inc. friend with Lydia] and have witnessed her exceptional dedication to public service and her unwavering commitment to the betterment of San Francisco and its communities.

Lydia's extensive experience in public service, combined with her exceptional qualifications, make her an ideal candidate for the SFMTA Board. Her previous service on the Arts Commission is a testament to her visionary leadership and her ability to contribute to city planning, improve the design quality of City-owned properties, and effectively regulate the 1%-for-art program. Lydia's invaluable contributions during her tenure on the Arts Commission have demonstrated her ability to think strategically and implement policies that enhance the cultural equity of our city.

Furthermore, Lydia's role as a liaison to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development exemplifies her commitment to promoting affordable housing for all residents of San Francisco. She understands the importance of accessible housing options and has actively supported initiatives that prioritize inclusivity and equitable development. Her dedication to improving the living conditions of families and business owners in the Bay Area through her own architecture firm further underscores her passion for creating vibrant and culturally equitable communities.

Lydia's involvement in significant projects, such as the Better Market Street improvement plan, highlights her dedication to sustainable urban growth and her focus on Vision Zero, aimed at eliminating traffic-related fatalities in our city. Her expertise in the technical aspects of

architecture and engineering, as evidenced by her trailblazing achievement as the first AAPI woman architect promoted to Technical Associate at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, makes her uniquely qualified to contribute to the SFMTA Board's endeavors.

Moreover, Lydia's recent roles as a Historic Preservation Commissioner and Portsmouth Square Parking Corporation Board Member demonstrate her commitment to preserving San Francisco's rich heritage and enhancing its cultural fabric. Her global experience in designing some of the world's most iconic structures, including the world's first all-glass spiral staircase, reflects her expertise in land use, urban environments, and transit-oriented developments. Lydia's comprehensive skill set and understanding of the critical role transit plays in maintaining vibrant communities would be invaluable assets to the SFMTA Board.

As a longtime resident of the Mission neighborhood, Lydia intimately understands the challenges and opportunities that our diverse communities face. It is high time that the SFMTA Board has AAPI representation, and Lydia's exceptional qualifications, coupled with her proven track record in city governance, make her the perfect candidate to bridge gaps and accomplish tangible results.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Lydia So's candidacy for the Board of Directors of the SFMTA. Her expertise, dedication to public service, and her ability to build bridges within our diverse communities make her the ideal candidate for this position. I urge you to give Lydia's application your utmost consideration and to cast your vote in support of her appointment.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss Lydia's candidacy in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me. I have complete confidence in Lydia's ability to contribute significantly to the SFMTA Board and to advance the transportation policies and services in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

  
Edward Siu  
CEO – Classics Tour

cc: Clerk of the Rules Committee, Victor Young  
President of the Board of Supervisor, Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Joel Engardio  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Rafael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Clerk of the Board, Angela Calvillo  
Deputy Clerk of the Board, Alisa Somera

July 2, 2023

Mike Chen  
San Francisco

Supervisor Matt Dorsey  
Supervisor Shamann Walton  
Supervisor Ahsha Safai  
Rules Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Support Lydia So's Appointment to SFMTA Board of Directors

Dear Supervisors Dorsey, Walton, and Safai:

I am writing to ask for your support for Lydia So's appointment to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors (Board File 230755). I currently serve as the District 2 appointee and Chair of the SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council (but am currently speaking in my personal capacity only). I have known Lydia So for years on a personal level and through her public service work. I believe Lydia's extensive, years-long experience in public service across multiple commissions, particularly in land use and holistic urban planning, has prepared her to tackle issues in transportation. Lydia's deep ties to multiple communities, including the Chinese community, make her well qualified for the position. Lydia would bring a valuable perspective, currently missing, to the MTA Board.

I am available for any questions. I urge you to recommend Lydia So's nomination and pass it to the full board without delay.

Sincerely,

Mike Chen  
Chair, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Citizens' Advisory Council  
(speaking in my personal capacity)

cc: Clerk of the Rules Committee, Victor Young  
Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Joel Engardio  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Clerk of the Board, Angela Calvillo  
Deputy Clerk of the Board, Alisa Somera

**From:** [Edward Siu](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Engardio, Joel \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Recommendation for Lydia So to Serve as a Board of Directors of the SFMTA  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 28, 2023 7:03:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [Recommendation for Lydia So.pdf](#)

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor Dorsey, Supervisor Walton, and Supervisor Safai:  
Here attached Chinatown Merchants United Association highly strong recommendation letter for Lydia So to serve as a Board of Directors of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA).

Edward Siu  
Chairman  
658 Jackson Street  
San Francisco CA. 94133  
web: [chinatownmerchantsf.org](http://chinatownmerchantsf.org)



**From:** [edsiu888](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Engardio, Joel \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Recommendation for Lydia So to Serve as a Board of Directors of the SFMTA  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 28, 2023 7:11:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [RECOMMENDATION LETTER FOR LYDIA SO TO SERVE SFMTA.pdf](#)

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Matt, Shamann, and Asha:

Here attached the recommendation letter which to express my enthusiastic support for Lydia So to serve as a Board of Directors of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)

Ed Siu  
CEO  
Classics Tour  
658 Jackson Street  
San Francisco CA. 94133  
Tel: (415) 391-8887 Fax: (415) 391-2778  
[www.classicstour.net](http://www.classicstour.net)

Chinatown Community Development Center  
615 Grant Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
July 6, 2023

Supervisor Dorsey  
Supervisor Walton  
Supervisor Safai  
Rules Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Recommendation for Lydia So as Board of Directors of the SFMTA

Dear Supervisor Dorsey, Supervisor Walton and Supervisor Safai,

I am writing to express our strong support and recommendation for Lydia So to serve as a Board of Directors of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). CCDC advocates for the betterment of San Francisco, I believe that Lydia's extensive experience in public service, her unwavering dedication to the community, and her exceptional qualifications make her an outstanding candidate for this crucial position.

Lydia has a proven track record of advocating for cultural equity and sustainable urban growth in San Francisco. Her previous service on the Arts Commission is a testament to her ability to provide visionary leadership in city planning, enhance the design quality of City-owned properties, and effectively regulate the 1%-for-art program. Her commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive city shines through her work and accomplishments during her tenure.

In her role as a liaison to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, Lydia has been a staunch supporter of affordable housing production for all San Franciscans. She understands the pressing need for accessible housing options and has consistently championed initiatives that promote equitable development and address the housing challenges faced by our residents.

Lydia's involvement in the Better Market Street improvement plan demonstrates her dedication to enhancing the city's main thoroughfare and improving the safety and accessibility of our transportation system. Her focus on Vision Zero, aiming to eliminate traffic-related deaths in San Francisco, is commendable and aligns perfectly with the SFMTA's mission to prioritize the safety of all road users.

Furthermore, Lydia's accomplishments as a Historic Preservation Commissioner and Portsmouth Square Parking Corporation Board Member highlight her commitment to preserving the city's heritage and enhancing its cultural richness. Her diverse experiences and expertise in



architecture and engineering, including her trailblazing role as the first AAPI woman architect promoted to Technical Associate at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, make her a highly qualified candidate to contribute to the development of inclusive and respectful transportation policies.

Lydia's practice as an architect, her work in regional urban growth, transit-oriented developments, and sustainability, as well as her global experience in designing world-renowned structures, showcase her unique skill set and deep understanding of the critical role that transit plays in maintaining the vitality of unique environments. Her perspective on places, land use, and the built environment will be invaluable in shaping the SFMTA's policies and initiatives.

As a longtime resident of San Francisco's Mission neighborhood and a Chinese American, Lydia is deeply connected to our community and understands the diverse needs of our residents. Having an AAPI representation on the SFMTA Board is long overdue, and Lydia's exceptional qualifications, combined with her city governance experience, make her the ideal candidate to build bridges and ensure that the voices of all communities are heard.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Lydia So's appointment to the Board of Directors of the SFMTA. Her extensive experience, proven track record, and dedication to public service make her an exceptional candidate who will bring valuable insights and positive change to San Francisco's transportation policies and services. I strongly urge you to vote in favor of her appointment and provide her with the opportunity to serve our city.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I am available for any further discussion or clarification. Please consider Lydia So's candidacy with the utmost seriousness and support her appointment to the SFMTA Board for the betterment of our city and its residents.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Yeung  
Executive Director

cc: Clerk of the Rules Committee, Victor Young  
President of the Board of Supervisor, Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Joel Engardio  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Rafael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Clerk of the Board, Angela Calvillo  
Deputy Clerk of the Board, Alisa Somera